

PCT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner
US Department of Commerce
United States Patent and Trademark
Office, PCT
2011 South Clark Place Room
CP2/5C24
Arlington, VA 22202
ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE
in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 28 November 2001 (28.11.01)	
International application No. PCT/US01/07227	Applicant's or agent's file reference 66261-033-7
International filing date (day/month/year) 08 March 2001 (08.03.01)	Priority date (day/month/year) 08 March 2000 (08.03.00)
Applicant BAKER, Steven, E.	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:
17 September 2001 (17.09.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:

2. The election ☒ was

☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">ENGER Charlotte</p> Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

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<p>The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland</p> <p>Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35</p>	<p>Authorized officer</p> <p>ENGER Charlotte</p> <p>Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38</p>
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(19) World Intellectual Property Organization
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date
13 September 2001 (13.09.2001)

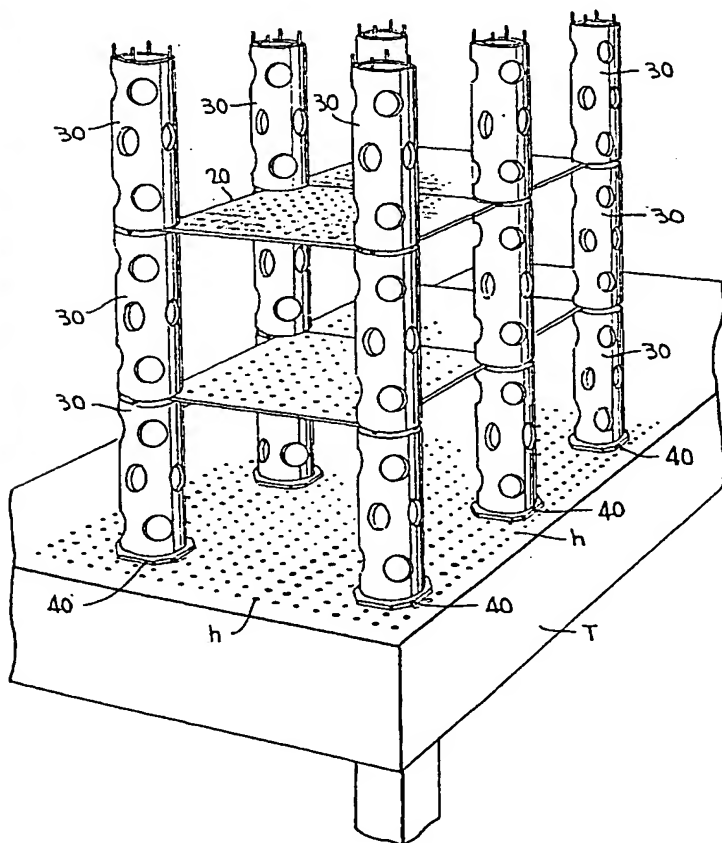
PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 01/67373 A3

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: **B25B 1/20** (72) Inventor; and
(75) Inventor/Applicant (for US only): BAKER, Steven, E.
(21) International Application Number: PCT/US01/07227 [US/US]: 855 McHenry Street, Baltimore, MD 21230 (US).
(22) International Filing Date: 8 March 2001 (08.03.2001) (74) Agent: TUSHIN, Richard, H.: Dykema Gossett PLLC.
(25) Filing Language: English Franklin Square, Third Floor West, 1300 I Street, N.W., Washington, CD 20005-3353 (US).
(26) Publication Language: English (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.
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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND [US/US]: Office of Technology Commercialization, 6200 Baltimore Avenue, #300, College Park, MD 20742 (US). (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: MODULAR PLATFORM ASSEMBLY



(57) Abstract: A modular platform assembly for providing at least one breadboard surface level above a table (T) includes a rectangular breadboard plate (20) having holes (23) therein, a pillar member (30, 60) for supporting each corner of the rectangular breadboard plate (20), and a base member for supporting each pillar member (30, 60) on a table top. By using multiple breadboard plates (20) and multiple pillars (30, 60), a first surface level of varying horizontal dimensions can be provided, as well as multiple vertically-spaced levels. The invention enables the creation of enlarged three-dimensional work surfaces above a table top, thus enhancing utilization of space in a small area.

WO 01/67373 A3



patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

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20 December 2001

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For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/07227

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC(7) :B25B 1/20

US CL : 269/45

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 269/45, 88, 900; 211/182, 189, 194

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

EAST: MODULAR, HOLES, ASSEMBL\$

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	US 5,887, 733 A (HARVEY et al.) 30 March 1999, See Fig 1, support board 28 and modular tower 14.	1-10
A	US 5,611,442 A (HOWARD) 18 March 1997, See Fig. 1, base supports 45 & 46, as well as towers 51.	1-10
A	US 2,748,954 A (MURREN) 05 June 1956, See Fig. 3, support pins 6 & 9.	1-10

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C. ☐ See patent family annex.

• Special categories of cited documents:	"T" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
"A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
"E" earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
"L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&" document member of the same patent family
"O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means	
"P" document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed	

Date of the actual completion of the international search 07 AUGUST 2001	Date of mailing of the international search report 31 AUG 2001
Name and mailing address of the ISA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703) 305-3230	Authorized officer DANIEL SHANLEY Telephone No. (703) 308-0000 <i>Sheila Venky</i> Paralegal Specialist Technology Center 3700

MODULAR PLATFORM ASSEMBLY

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to work tables, particularly test tables, and most particularly to breadboard test tables used for conducting research and testing of optical fibers and cables.

THE PRIOR ART

Work tables, and particular test tables used for supporting optical fibers and cables and test equipment associated with research and experimentation relative thereto, known as breadboard tables, are well known. Such tables, which normally provide a large horizontal metal top surface containing a regular pattern of threaded holes for fixedly attaching the necessary equipment thereon, can be heavy and rigid in construction, or of the floating type (Newport Table).

Research utilizing such tables is usually conducted in labs where space can be at a premium. At the same time, the number of optical fibers or cables under investigation at any one time can be large, and the associated equipment for each fiber or cable, e.g., clamps, meters, sensors, etc., can occupy much space. There is always a need and desire to make better use of the available space in the lab so as to facilitate the research work.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is directed to a platform assembly, in particular a modular platform assembly, which can be fixedly mounted on the top of a work or breadboard test table of the type mentioned above to

provide one or more additional work surface levels above the one provided by the top of the table, thus dramatically increasing the available surfacing for work and testing in a three dimensional sense. The additional work surface levels will include the a regular pattern of holes, e.g., threaded holes like those found on the conventional test table therebelow, thus enabling the normally used clamps, meters, sensors, etc., to be fixedly attached and provide the necessary stability for the desired testing.

According to the invention, the provided platform levels above the top of the underlying table can have a horizontal area about equal to the area of the pattern of holes on the table top, and each level can provide either a continuous or discontinuous work or test surface. The support legs or pillars that support the work surfaces can be hollow so as to provide passageways for cables or cords to pass downwardly therethrough in a protected manner.

The invention will now be better understood by reference to the accompanying drawings, taken in conjunction with the following discussion.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In the drawings,

Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a multilevel breadboard platform constructed at the corner of a breadboard table (test table) using components of the modular platform assembly of the present invention;

Fig. 2 is a plan view of a breadboard plate and portions of adjacent breadboard plates mounted on four pillar members of the modular platform assembly of the present invention;

Fig. 3 is an exploded perspective view of a pillar member and its associated base member, shown attached to the top surface of the breadboard table,

Fig. 4 is an enlarged top plan view of a base member;

Fig. 5 is a section of Fig. 4 as seen along line 5-5;

Fig. 6 is an enlarged view of a bottom portion of another embodiment of pillar member and associated base member when connected together and wherein a clamping ring is used to fixedly connect the two members together;

Fig. 6A shows a perspective view of a dowel from the base member shown in Fig. 6,

Fig. 7 is a view of an upper portion of an alternate embodiment of pillar member; and

Figs. 8 and 9 are perspective views of a work clamp that can be a component of the platform assembly of the present invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Fig. 1 shows a multilevel breadboard platform constructed at the corner of a breadboard table T using components of the modular platform assembly of the present invention. The breadboard table, which can be of the fixed or floating type (Newport table) and is usually made of metal, is

shown to have a rectangular pattern of threaded holes h in its top. These holes are conventionally spaced 1 inch on center. Such a table is used for positioning equipment used in research and testing of fiber optic cables.

The components of the modular platform assembly enable the construction of at least one breadboard surface above the top of the breadboard table which increases the usable surface for research and testing in a limited space. The basic components include a breadboard plate 20, pillar members 30 and base members 40.

The breadboard plate 20, which can be made of rigid plastic and is preferably transparent, is generally square in shape, although squared off at its corners 21, and it includes a rectangular pattern of threaded holes 22, identical to holes h, that are 1 inch on center and enable the fixed positioning thereon of the same equipment that would otherwise be fixed on the top of breadboard table T. In addition, positioning holes 23 are located adjacent the edges 21 to enable the breadboard plate to be properly positioned on the pillar members 30, as will be discussed below.

As seen in Fig. 3, each pillar member 30 is shaped as a tube having access holes 31 in its peripheral wall, and it includes four positioning pins 32 that axially extend from its upper end (annular) wall 33 and four blind bores 34 which axially extend into its lower end (annular) wall 35. The pins 32 are equally peripherally spaced and are sized to fit with a minimum of play in a respective positioning hole 23 of a breadboard plate 20. The blind bores 34 are equally peripherally spaced and can accept

positioning pins 32 from a pillar member therebelow, or alternatively dowels extending upwardly from a base member 40. The holes 31 enable power cords, hoses or cables to extend downwardly therein from one or more breadboard plates thereabove and to exit onto the breadboard table or extend to other nearby equipment.

As best seen in Fig. 3, each base member 40 includes a square plate 41, preferably made of metal, that is squared off at its corners 42, and includes a captive screw 43 at its center that is threadedly engageable in a threaded hole h in the breadboard table T. A positioning screw 44, 1 inch on center relative to the captive screw 43, is threadedly engageable in another hole h to non-rotatably position the plate 41 on the breadboard table top. Four dowels 45 extend upwardly from a top surface of the plate 41 to fit within the blind bores 34 in a pillar member 30 positioned thereon.

After appropriately fixing four base members 40 on the breadboard table T and respectively positioning four pillar members 30 on the respective base members, a breadboard plate 20 can be positioned on the upper ends of the pillar members, the positioning holes 21 at the four corners of the breadboard plate fitting over respective pins 32 of the pillar members, thus creating a small single-level breadboard platform above the breadboard table T. By fixing more base members and more pillar members on the breadboard table and then positioning more breadboard

plates on the pillar members, the area of the single-level breadboard platform can be increased to the desired extent.

To create another level of the breadboard platform above the first, pillar members are positioned on top of the upper ends of the pillar members supporting breadboard plates (thus locking the breadboard plates in their level), and then positioning more breadboard plates on the upper ends of the new pillar members. Like the level therebelow, the area of the second level can be expanded by increasing the number of pillar members and bread board plates used.

As indicated in Fig. 3, a pillar member 30 is vertically mountable on a base member by positioning the blind bores 34 over the dowels 45. However, the pillar member is not locked in position. According to Fig. 6, in a alternative embodiment a pillar member 30a includes a peripheral channel 35 that communicates with each of the blind bores 34a, and the base member 40a includes dowels 45a which have notches 46 so that when position in the blind bores 34a, and ring 50 can be positioned in the peripheral channel 35 and in each of the notches 46 to lock the pillar member 30a onto the base member 40a.

As noted above, when a pillar member 30 is mounted above another pillar member which is supporting a breadboard plate, i.e., so as to create another platform level thereabove, the supported breadboard plate becomes locked in position. According to Fig. 7, in an alternative embodiment of pillar member 60, its upper body portion is formed with an

enlarged top 61 that forms an internal shoulder 62 for abutment by a lower body portion 65 of a similar pillar member. The top 61 also includes an annular flange 63 with pins 64 over which a corner positioning hole of a breadboard plate can extend. The lower body portion will include blind bores (not shown) similar to the blind bores 34 in the Fig. 3 embodiment for mounting on a base member 40. With such pillar members, even when mounted on top of one another, a mounted breadboard plate can be upwardly lifted relative to the pins 64 and removed from its level when desired.

Figs. 8 and 9 depict a work clamp 70 that can be a component of the modular platform assembly of the present invention. It includes an elongated base 71 having captive screws 72 and 73 near its opposite ends (these screws are spaced so as to fit within holes h in the table T), first and second block posts 74 and 76, and an elongated pad 78 therebetween. The first post 74 includes pins 75 extending from opposite sides thereof, and second post 76 includes a threaded hole 77 in its top surface. A cooperating elongated flange 79 having a C-shaped cross section includes aligned slots 80 at its first end, a captive screw 81 near its second end, and an elongated pad 82 therebetween. The first end of the flange can fit over the first block post 74 with the pins 75 extending in the slots 80, and the second end of the flange can be pivoted down and over the second block post so that the captive screw 81 can be screwed into the threaded hole 77. The pads 78 and 82, when pressed together,

can fixedly position a cable C therebetween as depicted in Fig. 9, which is commonly desired during experimentation and testing of such cables.

Although some preferred embodiments of the invention have been shown and described, various changes can be made and still fall within the scope of the claims.

Claims:

1. A modular platform assembly for providing at least one breadboard surface level above a breadboard table (T), said modular platform assembly comprising:

a rectangular breadboard plate (20) which has a plurality of attachment holes (22) and a positioning hole (23) at each corner thereof,

a pillar member (30,60) for supporting each corner of a breadboard plate, each pillar including pins (32, 64) that axially extend from a first end (33,63) thereof and four blind bores (34) that axially extend into a second end (35) thereof, and

a base member (40) for supporting each pillar on said breadboard table, each base member including a plate (41) having a first element (43) at a center thereof for connection to a hole (h) in said breadboard table to connect said base member to said table, a second member (44) for connection to another hole in said breadboard table to non-rotatably position said base member in place on said table, and a plurality of dowels (45) which extend upwardly from said plate to fit within corresponding blind bores in a second end of a pillar member, said breadboard plate being positionable on four pillar members such that each of said positioning holes thereof fits over a respective pin of one of said pillar members.

2. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein a plurality of said breadboard plates are supported by a plurality of said

pillar members mounted on respective base members to provide an enlarged breadboard surface level above said breadboard table.

3. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein additional pillar members are positioned above pillar members supporting a breadboard plate by fitting blind bores thereof over pins of a pillar member therebelow, and additional breadboard plates are positioned on said additional pillar members to provide an additional breadboard surface level above said breadboard table.

4. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein said pillar members are hollow and include access holes (31) in a side wall thereof.

5. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein said first and second members are screws.

6. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein said breadboard plate is made of plastic.

7. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of attachment holes are in a rectangular pattern.

8. A modular platform assembly according to claim 1, wherein said pillar member includes a peripheral channel (35) which communicates with each of said blind bores, wherein each dowel of said base member includes a groove (46) therein that will be in register with said peripheral channel when said dowel is positioned in a respective blind bore, and including a ring member (50) that is positionable in said peripheral

channel and into said grooves to lock said pillar member and said base member together.

9. A modular platform assembly for providing at least one breadboard surface above a breadboard table (T), said modular platform assembly comprising:

a rectangular breadboard plate (20) which has a pattern of threaded holes (22) and a positioning hole (23) at each corner thereof,

a pillar member (60) for supporting each corner of a breadboard plate, each pillar member having a lower body portion (65) and an enlarged hollow top portion (61), said enlarged hollow top portion including a radially-outwardly extending annular flange (63) and pins (64) extending upwardly from said flange, said pins fitting in a positioning hole in a corner of a breadboard plate, a lower body portion of one pillar member fitting downwardly within an enlarged hollow top portion of another pillar member therebelow to abut a shoulder (62) therein,

said breadboard plate being positionable on four said pillar members such that each of said positioning holes thereof fits over a respective pin of one of said pillar members and is upwardly removable therefrom even with another pillar member positioned thereover.

10. A modular platform assembly according to claim 9, wherein each said pillar member includes four equally peripherally spaced pins extending upwardly from said annular flange.

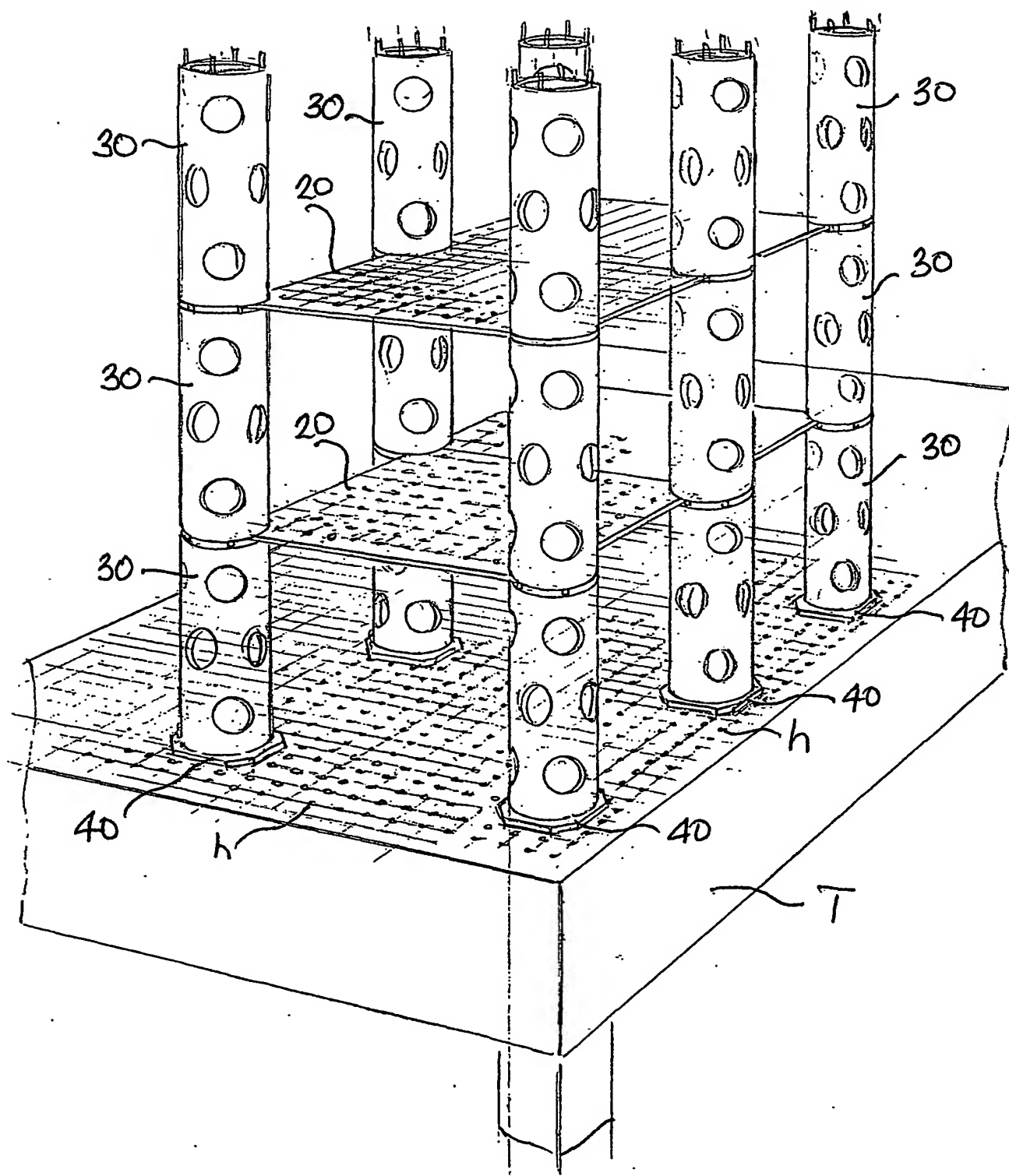
11. A work clamp for use on a breadboard surface (T,20) having a pattern of holes (h, 22) therein, said work clamp comprising:

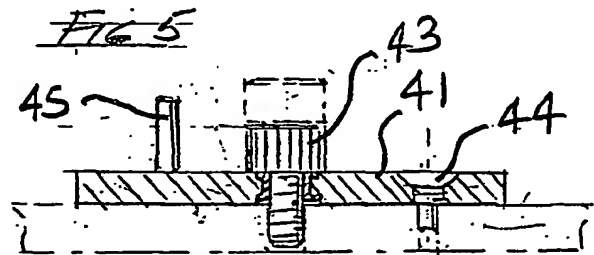
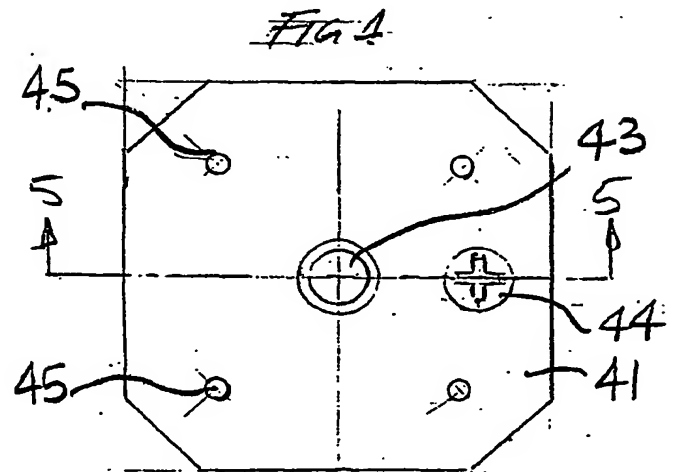
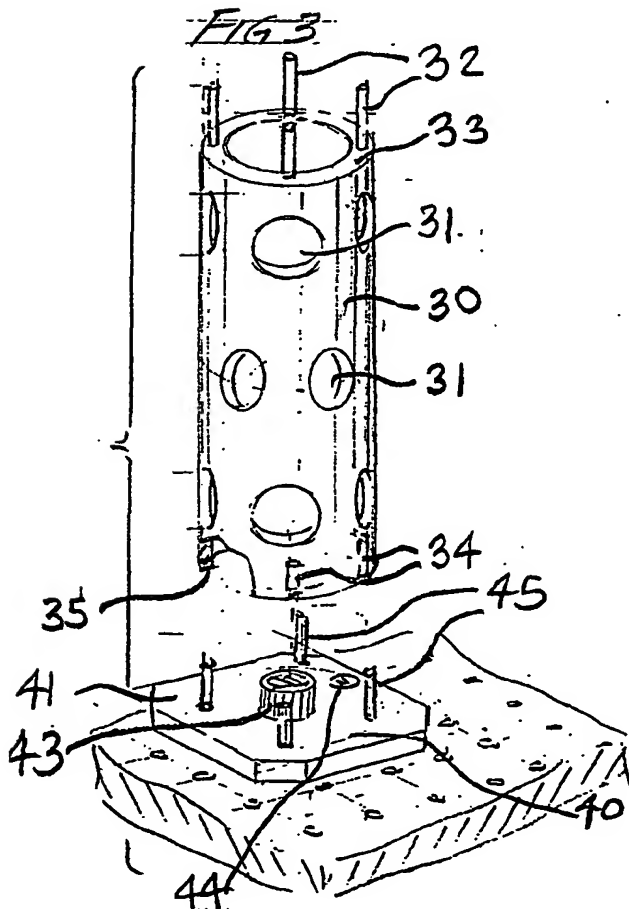
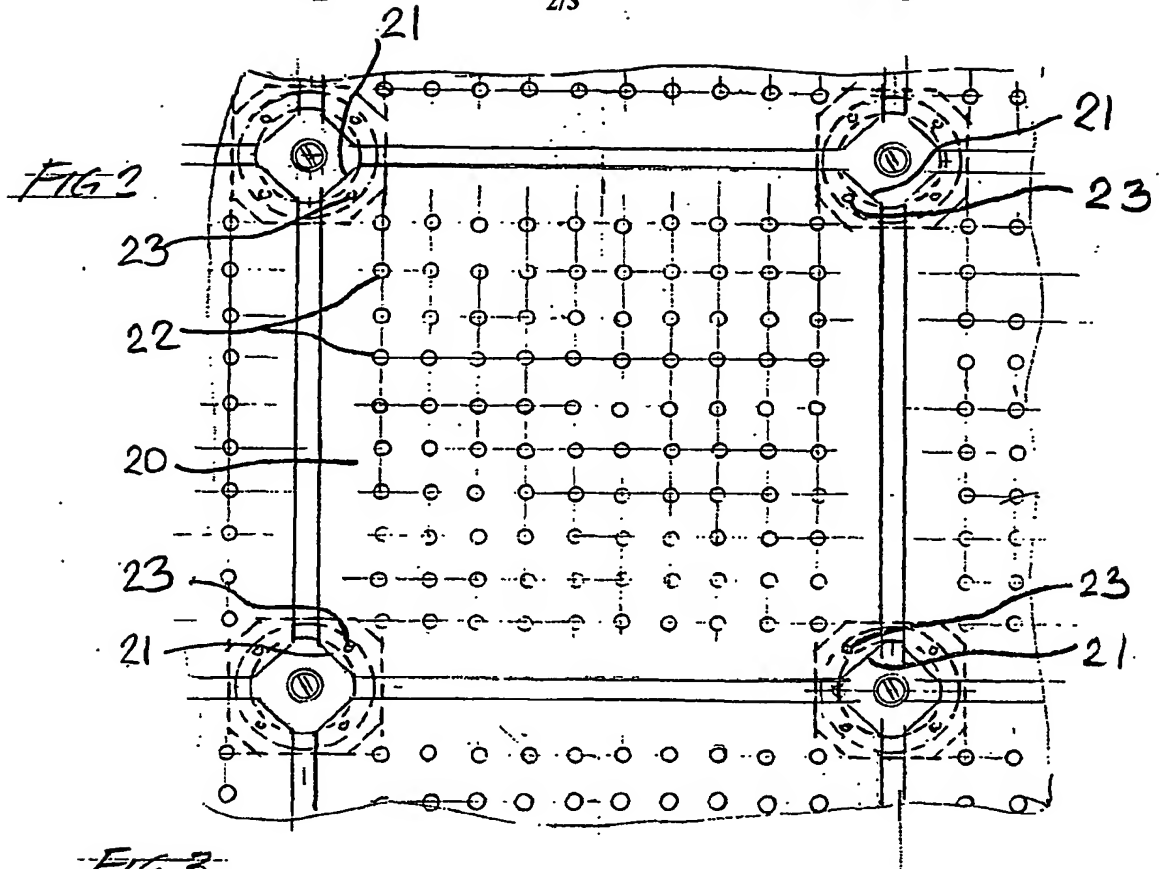
an elongated base (71) having two elements (72,73) for attachment to two holes in said breadboard surface, first and second spaced block posts (74,77), and a first pad (78) therebetween, and

an elongated flange (78) pivotally connected to said first block post and attachable to said second block post, said elongated flange including a second pad (82) for cooperation with said first pad to clamp a workpiece therebetween.

12. A work clamp according to claim 11, wherein said two members are screws.

FIG. 1





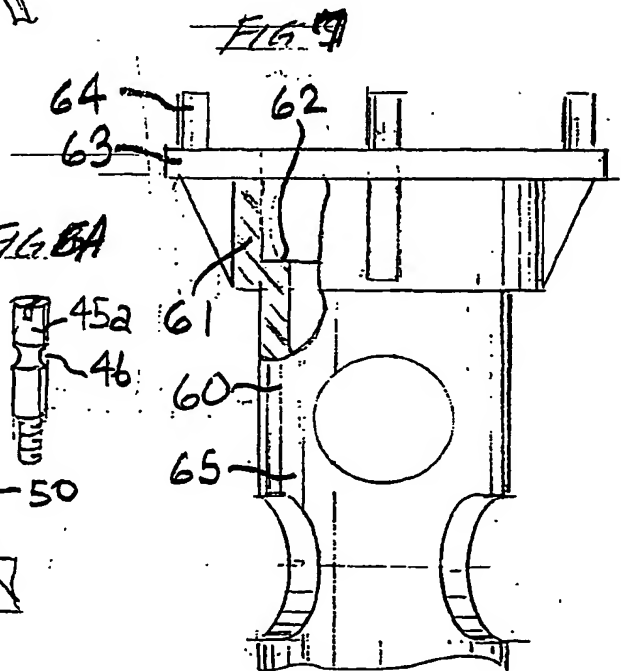
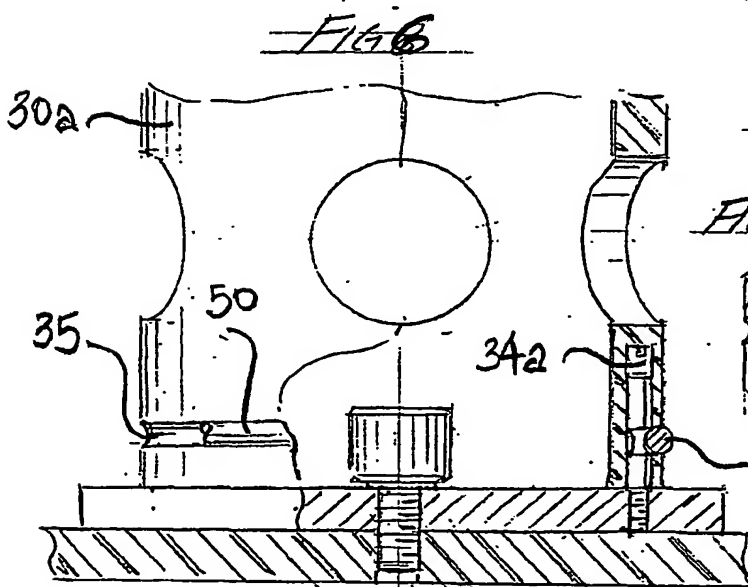
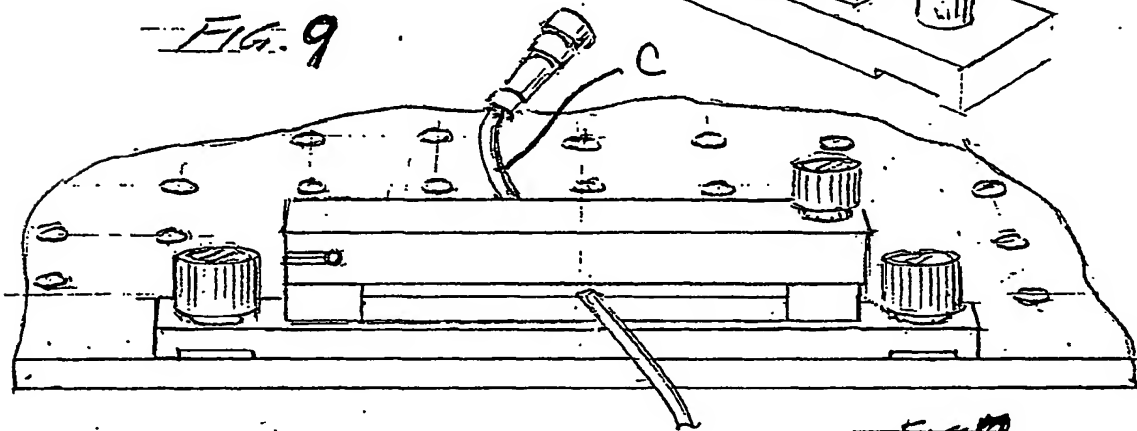
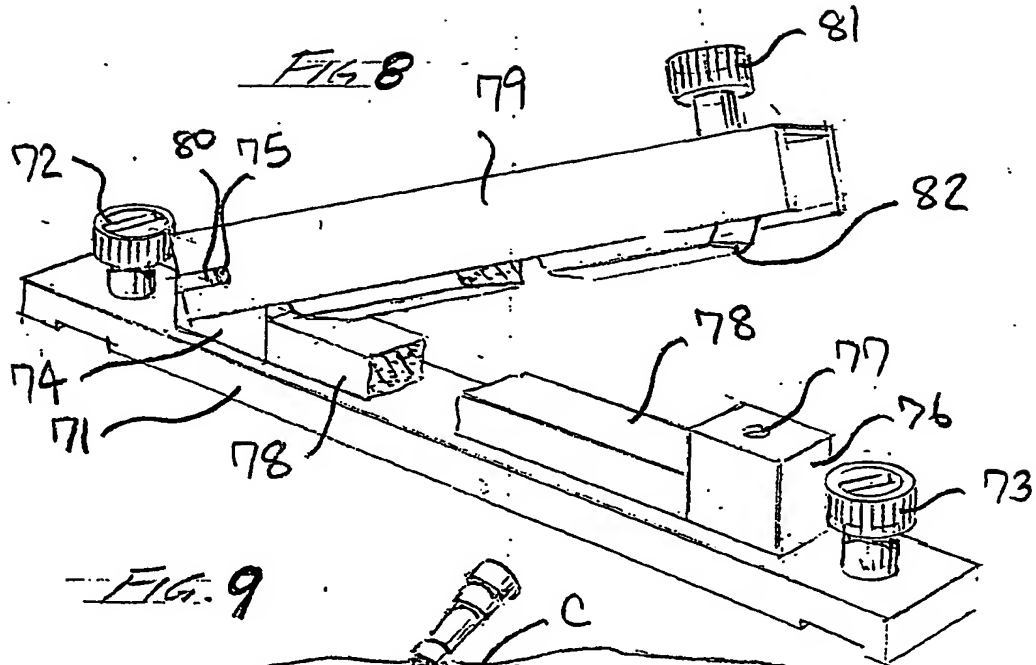
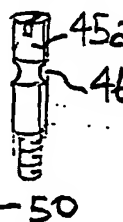


FIG 6A



PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

MAR 27 2003

From the
INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINING AUTHORITY

To:
 RICHARD H. TUSHIN
 DYKEMA GOSSETT PLLC
 FRANKLIN SQUARE, THIRD FLOOR WEST
 1300 I STREET, N.W.
 WASHINGTON, DC 20005-3353

PCT

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF
 INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY
 EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Rule 71.1)

Date of Mailing
 (day/month/year)

24 MAR 2003

Applicant's or agent's file reference

66261-033-7

IMPORTANT NOTIFICATION

International application No.

PCT/US01/07227

International filing date (day/month/year)

08 March 2001 (08.03.2001)

Priority date (day/month/year)

08 March 2000 (08.03.2000)

Applicant

OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION

1. The applicant is hereby notified that this International Preliminary Examining Authority transmits herewith the international preliminary examination report and its annexes, if any, established on the international application.
2. A copy of the report and its annexes, if any, is being transmitted to the International Bureau for communication to all the elected Offices.
3. Where required by any of the elected Offices, the International Bureau will prepare an English translation of the report (but not of any annexes) and will transmit such translation to those Offices.
4. **REMINDER**

The applicant must enter the national phase before each elected Office by performing certain acts (filing translations and paying national fees) within 30 months from the priority date (or later in some Offices)(Article 39(1))(see also the reminder sent by the International Bureau with Form PCT/IB/301).

Where a translation of the international application must be furnished to an elected Office, that translation must contain a translation of any annexes to the international preliminary examination report. It is the applicant's responsibility to prepare and furnish such translation directly to each elected Office concerned.

For further details on the applicable time limits and requirements of the elected Offices, see Volume II of the PCT Applicant's Guide.

Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
 Box PCT
 Washington, D.C. 20231

Facsimile No. (703)305-3230

Form PCT/IPEA/416 (July 1992)

Authorized officer

JOSEPH HAIL

Telephone No. 703 308 1148

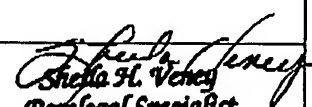
Shella H. Venev
 Paralegal Specialist
 Tech. Center 3700

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 66261-033-7	FOR FURTHER ACTION See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/US01/07227	International filing date (day/month/year) 08 March 2001 (08.03.2001)	Priority date (day/month/year) 08 March 2000 (08.03.2000)
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC IPC(7): B25B 1/20 and US Cl.: 269/45		
Applicant OFFICE OF TECHNOLOGY COMMERCIALIZATION		
<p>1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.</p> <p>2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>3</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e., sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).</p> <p>These annexes consist of a total of <u>0</u> sheets.</p> <p>3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:</p> <p>I <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Basis of the report</p> <p>II <input type="checkbox"/> Priority</p> <p>III <input type="checkbox"/> Non-establishment of report with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability</p> <p>IV <input type="checkbox"/> Lack of unity of invention</p> <p>V <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement</p> <p>VI <input type="checkbox"/> Certain documents cited</p> <p>VII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain defects in the international application</p> <p>VIII <input type="checkbox"/> Certain observations on the international application</p>		
Date of submission of the demand 17 SEPTEMBER 2001 (17.09.2001)	Date of completion of this report 12 MARCH 2003 (12.03.2003)	
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/US Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks Box PCT Washington, D.C. 20231 Facsimile No. (703)305-3230	Authorized officer Joseph Hail Telephone No. 703-308-1148  Sheila H. Venev Paralegal Specialist Tech. Center 3700	

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (cover sheet)(July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US01/07227

I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the elements of the international application:*

- ☒ the international application as originally filed.
- ☒ the description:
pages 1-8 as originally filed
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the claims:
pages 9-12 as originally filed
pages NONE as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____
- ☒ the drawings:
pages 1-3 as originally filed
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____
- ☐ the sequence listing part of the description:
pages NONE as originally filed
pages NONE filed with the demand
pages NONE filed with the letter of _____

2. With regard to the language, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language _____ which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of the translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in printed form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. ☒ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☒ the description, pages NONE
- ☒ the claims, Nos. NONE
- ☒ the drawings, sheets/fig NONE

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).**

* Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17).

** Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box I) (July 1998)

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.
PCT/US01/07227**V. Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. STATEMENT**

Novelty (N)	Claims <u>1-12</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Inventive Step (IS)	Claims <u>1-12</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO
Industrial Applicability (IA)	Claims <u>1-12</u>	YES
	Claims <u>NONE</u>	NO

2. CITATIONS AND EXPLANATIONS

Claims 1-12 meet the criteria set out in PCT Article 33(2)-(4), because the prior art does not teach or fairly suggest in whole nor in part the combination of structural elements affirmatively recited. Specifically, a modular platform assembly with a rectangular baseboard plate, pillar members, and a base member positionable through the use of pins (32, 34) and dowels (45).

Form PCT/IPEA/409 (Box V) (July 1998)